



Committee on Finance and the Northampton City Council

*Councilor David A. Murphy, Chair
Councilor Maureen T. Carney
Councilor Marianne L. LaBarge
Councilor Gina-Louise Sciarra*

**City Council Chambers, 212 Main Street
Wallace J. Puchalski Municipal Building
Northampton, MA**

Meeting Date: June 21, 2018

Note: The Finance Committee Meeting took place during the City Council Meeting as announced. The City Council Meeting began at 7 p.m.

1. **Meeting Called To Order:** At 7:15 p.m. Councilor Murphy called the meeting to order.
2. **Roll Call:** Present were committee members David Murphy, Maureen Carney, Marianne LaBarge & Gina-Louise Sciarra. Also present from the City Council were Bill Dwight, Jim Nash, Ryan O'Donnell, Dennis Bidwell, and Alisa Klein.
3. **Approval Of Minutes From The Previous Meeting**
 - A. **Minutes of May 3, 2018 and May 17, 2018**

**Councilor LaBarge moved to approve the minutes of May 3, 2018 and May 17, 2018.
Councilor Sciarra seconded. The motion passed unanimously 4:0.**

4. Financial Orders

- A. **18.124 An Order To Grant Utility Easement Under Masonic Street Parking Lot**
Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

Councilor LaBarge moved to return the order to the full City Council with a positive recommendation; Councilor Sciarra seconded.

The text of the order explains it, Mayor Narkewicz advised. National Grid has been trying to come up with a way to bury some lines that run down Conz Street. The lines are so close to the building that they can't safely get under them. The city and National Grid have worked out an agreement where the city will grant an easement to allow the utility to bury the lines underground at its own expense. It was a long negotiation.

LaBarge asked why the consideration is only \$1. It's a lawyers' way of saying 'no consideration,' Mayor Narkewicz responded.

Councilor Dwight asked if he knew when the project would take place.

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The Mayor said no, but National Grid representatives have been wanting to do it since last year. They will schedule it so as not to disrupt the parking lot.

Councilor Dwight said he thought it would be difficult due to its location. There may be substantial disruption to parking, he observed. He asked if the city got an offset for this, and Mayor Narkewicz said no.

It looks like it would eliminate certain parking. Not in the main area, Mayor Narkewicz assured. The work area is closer to the Jersey barrier near the Verizon building, he indicated. He said he would be happy to go back and get more information for the second reading.

Councilor Bidwell said he had two questions: 1) whether there was any provision for addressing foregone revenue due to the project and, 2) whether there was any news on the potential redevelopment of the parking lot.

No, Mayor Narkewicz said. He stressed that the city has the right to ask National Grid to move the underground conduit in the future.

Councilor Murphy called the motion to a vote, and it passed unanimously 4:0.

B. 18.126 Order To Authorize Northampton School Committee To Accept Gift Of Surplus Technology Equipment From Smith College

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

Councilor LaBarge moved to return the order to the full City Council with a positive recommendation; Councilor Sciarra seconded.

The School Committee routinely accepts technology gifts from Smith College, Mayor Narkewicz reminded. This is one that trips the \$10,000 limit, which is why it has to come to city council. Smith College tends to have new technology so they turn over their technology a lot.

LaBarge asked how old the equipment is. Mayor Narkewicz said he doesn't have that at his fingertips. They would not accept it if it was not current equipment.

Councilor Murphy called the motion to a vote, and it passed unanimously 4:0.

C. 18.127 An Order To Authorize FY2019 Intermunicipal Agreements

Councilor Murphy read the text of the order.

Councilor LaBarge moved to return the order to the full City Council with a positive recommendation; Councilor Sciarra seconded.

These are all renewals of agreements, Mayor Narkewicz related. By law, other communities have to take them to their city councils and Selectboards and Northampton has to do the same. His take-away is that Northampton is involved in a lot of incredible partnerships and programs.

Councilor Dwight said he's familiar with every single one of these and is glad and excited to see the community electricity aggregation included. He asked if this constitutes an agreement with Pelham and Amherst?

He had a meeting with the Mayor, Selectboard and town managers of the three communities, Mayor Narkewicz confirmed. The three communities have appointed a working group which has been meeting on a regular basis in each of the three communities on a rotating basis to study the

issue to see if they can put together something like Cape Light. They are exploring. Mr. Feiden and Mr. Mason are representing the city.

They wanted an agreement in place because they are looking at potentially applying for grants to do some of the feasibility analysis. Northampton had a municipal agreement with five communities prior to the bike share agreement, he reminded.

Councilor Bidwell asked if he recalled Northampton having approved funding for construction of its own kennel. Mayor Narkewicz said yes; they are in the process of trying to find a location for it. Administrators are having to work thru DCAMM and are working with a designer. The police chief and Central Services Director David Pomerantz have visited some facilities and are just trying to finalize a location.

Councilor Murphy called the motion to a vote, and it passed unanimously 4:0.

5. **New Business**

-Reserved for topics that the Chair did not reasonably anticipate would be discussed.
None.

6. **Adjourn:** At 7:38 p.m., **Councilor Sciarra moved to adjourn; Councilor Carney seconded. The motion was approved on a voice vote of 4 Yes, 0 No.**

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